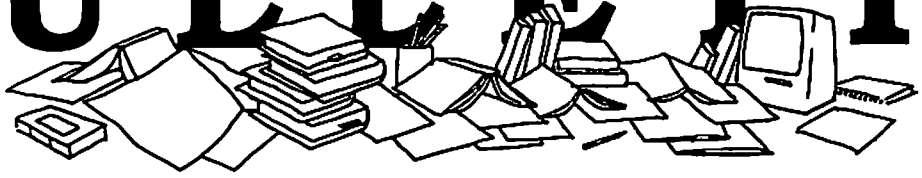
THE LITERACY MATERIALS

BULLETIN



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Fall 1990

This is the second issue of the Literacy Materials Bulletin. We have received approval for cost-shared funding for this project from the B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology and the National Literacy Secretariat.

As promised in the last bulletin, we have tried to include a number of materials with Canadian content in this issue.

We hope to review some computer software as well as materials designed for workplace literacy programs in the next issue.

We know teachers want to have some idea of costs, so we have tried to include more prices in this issue. Please note that these may be subject to change.

If you want to have a look at any of the materials mentioned in this bulletin, you can do so by contacting the Centre for Curriculum and Professional Development. The materials are available on a loan basis for a period of one month. They will circulate for six months after the bulletin is published and will then be removed and replaced by materials reviewed in the next bulletin.

If you wish to borrow any of the materials reviewed here, contact:

Sally Coates-Crews
Centre for Curriculum and Professional Development
Fifth Floor
1483 Douglas Street
Victoria, B.C. V8W 3K4
Tel: (604) 387-9628
Fax: (604) 387-9142

When ordering, please specify that it is a material from the Literacy Materials Bulletin.

There will always be a complete set of all the materials at the Adult Literacy Contact Centre for those of you who want to look at them there.

We would like to thank the teachers who sent in reviews of materials after the last bulletin. We will be reviewing and field testing these materials in the next few months.

We continue to need input from the field. Please send us a review of any material you think would be useful to others. You can use the form provided on the last page.

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Chairperson

Literacy Materials Committee

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Capilano College
986-3945

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RESOURCE PERSONS:

Norma Kidd
Ministry of Advanced Education Training, and Technology
387-6174

Thomas Quigley
Vancouver Public Library
665-3594

Title: Optima Large Print Edition Fastback Anthologies
Author: Multi-authored
Publisher: David S. Lake Publishers, 1989
Available: Fearon-Janus, 500 Harbor Blvd,. Belmont, California 94002 Tel: (415) 592-7810
Price: Set of 10 books $126.75 (US)
Sincle copy $13.50 (US)
Reviewed by Linda Hackett
Level: Functional (4-6)

The Fastback Series of stories by Fearon Education reviewed in the first Literacy Materials Bulletin (Spring 1990), is also available in a format other than the original small, single story paperbacks. The publisher has grouped the most popular Fastback and Double Fastback titles by theme and created ten 144-page anthologies.

The print used in this edition is large and readable, making it ideal for elderly or somewhat sight-impaired learners who require highly visible text.

Learners who reviewed both the Fearon and Lake editions reported that while the Fearon books were more interesting-looking, the Lake versions give the new reader a positive feeling of having "graduated" to a hardcover book.

Title: Canadian Lives Series
Author: Multi-authored
Publisher: Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 1989
Available: Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 195 Allstate Parkway, Markham, Ontario, L3R 4T8 Tel: (416) 477-0030. FAX: (416) 477-9179
Price: Individual Biographies 5 book pack (same title)$26.95 Single copies $6.95
Group Biographies 5 book pack (same title)$34.95, Single copies $8.95
Reviewed by: Joan Acosta
Level: Functional (4-6)

The *Canadian Lives* series features profiles of Canadian men and women who are well known for their work in the arts, entertainment, sports, politics, business, and other professions.

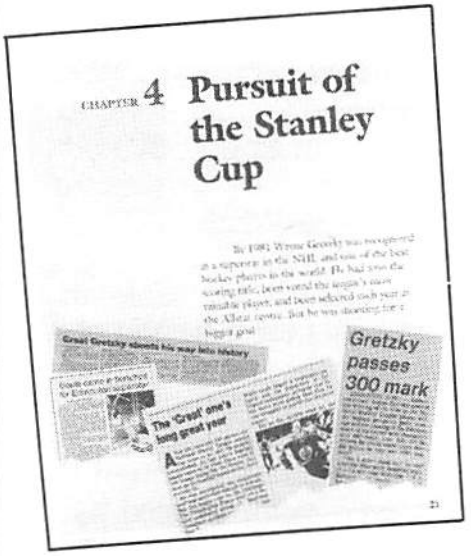
The books are published in two formats: individual biographies and group biographies which feature four profiles with a thematic link.

The individual biographies include David Suzuki, Laurie Graham, Wayne Gretzky, Karen Kain, Robert Bateman, Bryan Adams, Jeanne Sauve, and Brian Orser.

Titles of the group biographies are: *Swimmers, Kids' Writers, Bravery, Entrepreneurs, Painters, Pioneers, Track and Field,* and *Musicians.*

The books in this series were developed for junior secondary students and for this reason place particular emphasis on the subjects' formative years including descriptions of childhood memories and early conflicts and challenges.

A diversity of reading materials is scattered throughout each book.


CHAPTER 4 Pursuit of the Stanley Cup

Gretzky passes 300 mark

Newspaper clippings, childhood letters, sketchbook captions, and letters link reading to the outside world. In addition, the use of sidebars, bold captions, and photos make the pages visually interesting.

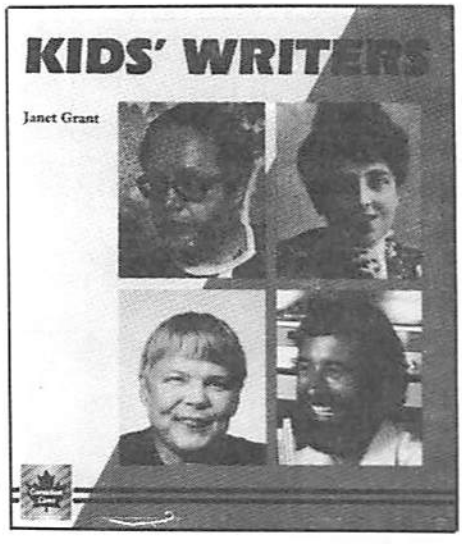
Several titles were field tested with students with reading levels of about Grade 4-7.

Students generally found the reading level challenging, but not overwhelming. Some groups just read the stories; in other cases teachers designed exercises to accompany the stories.

Teachers found the books useful for vocabulary building and as a catalyst for discussion.

Both teachers and students liked the personal anecdotes and Canadian content.

Note: The Teachers' Guide for this series was not field tested.



Title: The Great Series
Author: Henry Billings and Melissa Stone
Publisher: Steck-Vaughn, 1990
Available: Educational Resources, #109 - 8475 Ontario Street, Vancouver, B.C. V5X 3E8 Tel: (604) 324-9717
Price: Single copy $7.75
Reviewed by: Andrew Kennedy
Level: Functional (4-6)

The Great Series includes four high interest, low reading level books. The book titles are: *Great Disasters, Great Rescues, Great Escapes*, and *Great Mysteries.*

Each book in the series has 12 four to six page stories presenting historical accounts of events, including photographs and illustrations, followed by two pages of exercises.

Only two of the stories have Canadian subject matter -- The Springhill Mining Accident and Wilderness Survival (49 days in the Yukon). Most of the rest are American. The stories are told in a narrative style with mostly simple sentence structure. Key words are highlighted in bold, within context, and a simple definition is given in the glossary at the end of each book.

The exercise pages use activities to test the student's comprehension of the story, to build vocabulary, and to practise writing.

This is not a progressive reading series, but is designed to supply the practice that students at low reading levels need. No teacher's manual is provided, but one is not necessary. Students can score exercises and check progress on their own from the answer key at the end of the books.

The books are attractive, cleanly-presented reading material. Students in a Camosun College Basic Skills class gave their approval to the look of the books, to the content and to the "easy" exercises. In combination with other materials these books can provide interesting reading for students.

Title: Hello Cities Canadian Rainbow Series
Author: Alma Schemenauer
Publisher: GLC Silver Burdett, 1986
Available: Ginn Publishing, 3771 Victoria Park Avenue, Scarborough, Ont. M1W 2P9 Tel: (416) 497-4600
Price: 16 book set $98.95 (hardcover), $65.95 (softcover) Individual copies $6.50 (hardcover) $4.50 (soft)
Reviewed by: Lorraine Fox
Level: Basic (0-3)

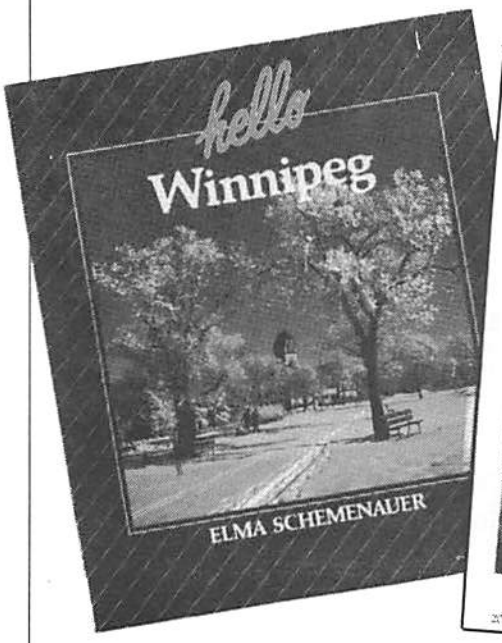
The Canadian Rainbow Series includes a collection of 16 books called *Hello Cities*. Each book presents a major Canadian city with full color illustrations and an authentic "you are there" presentation.

The *Hello Cities* books come with a Teacher Resource manual. They can be used to plan lessons of a social studies nature as well as for spontaneous reading.

These books work with learners because of their attractiveness, and the fact that people, young or old, can usually relate to at least one particular city. The reading level is such that low level readers can feel comfortable in their ability to understand the reading, with little assistance required.

Hello Cities was well received by my learners, and it is their opinion that for the native learner, the books contain good visuals. They also found it useful to have each city presented individually, instead of in the format of a history book. My learners said that had the cities been presented as a regular text, it would not have attracted them in the same manner.

I plan to use these books in tutoring situations as well as in individual unsupervised study.



At Folklorama you can hear Italian love songs and watch Native hoop dancers. You can eat everything from Ukrainian perogies to Jewish knishes to East Indian curries and English trifle. Folklorama is Winnipeg's great festival of nations. There, the city's people share and enjoy their many different backgrounds.

Some groups also have their own special festivals. For instance, there are Indian Days every summer. At Indian Days, Native Canadians share their culture through powwow dancing, concerts, fashion shows, and plays.

"Good to see you!" say these young women at Folklorama. What do Winnipeg people celebrate at this festival?

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Title: The New Start Canada Series
Author: Multi-authored
Publisher: East End Literacy Press
Available: Pippin Publishing Ltd. 150 Telson Road, Markham, Ontario. Tel: (416) 513-6966 Fax: (416) 513-6977
Price: Single copies $3.95-$5.95 Sample set with one each of six titles $25.00
Reviewed by: Laurie Gould
Level: Basic (0-3)

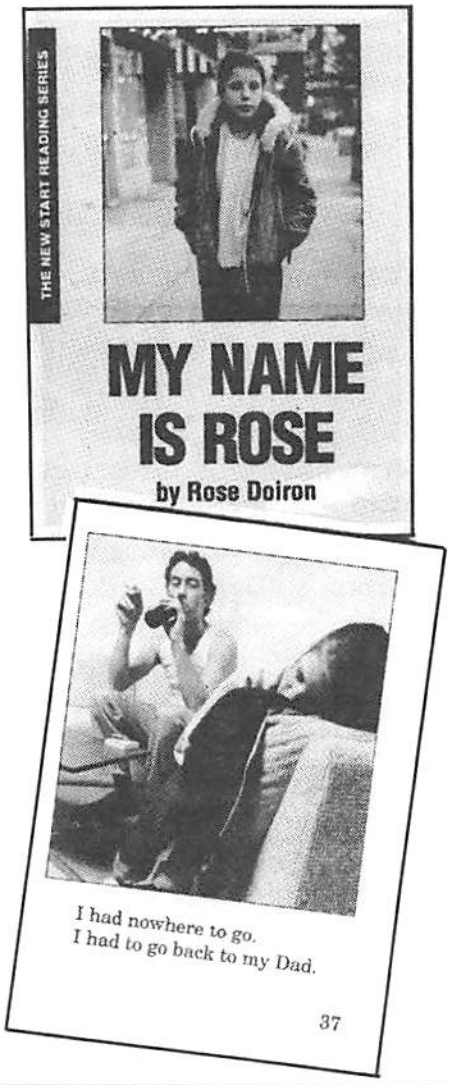
The *New Start Reading Series* is a set of five books written by adult learners at the Toronto East End Literacy project. Four of them tell the individual stories of learners. They touch on subjects such as physical abuse, racism, sheltered workshops, and crime. The fifth book, *Working Together*, shows how East End Literacy learners helped each other learn to fill out forms.

The most popular of the series is *My Name is Rose.* Rose tells how she grew up in an atmosphere of physical violence that continued in her adult relationships with men. With the help of people who care for her, she breaks the pattern and builds a happy life. It is a moving story.

The other titles in the series are *Raised up Down South, New Years 1960,* and *Getting Along.* The message running through all the stories is the importance of friendship and of working together.

The books are small, a little wider than a pocket book, and contain photographs or drawings that dramatize the story. The print is large and there are only a few sentences on each page.

Students enjoy the stories because they are written by people like themselves and deal with subjects that are very real to them. The books can be used for free reading or in a more structured situation. They spark much discussion and often trigger students to write their own stories.



Title: Learning About the Law
Authors: Ann Hinkle, June Dragman, Maggie Trebble
Publisher: Law Court Education Society of B.C./ Public Legal Education Society. 1990
Available: Law Court Education Society of B.C., Suite 219, 800 Smithe Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2E1. Tel: (604) 660-2919 OR Public Legal Education Society of B.C., Suite 150, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2M4. Tel: (604) 688-2565
Reviewed by: Loraine Wong
Level: Functional (4-6)

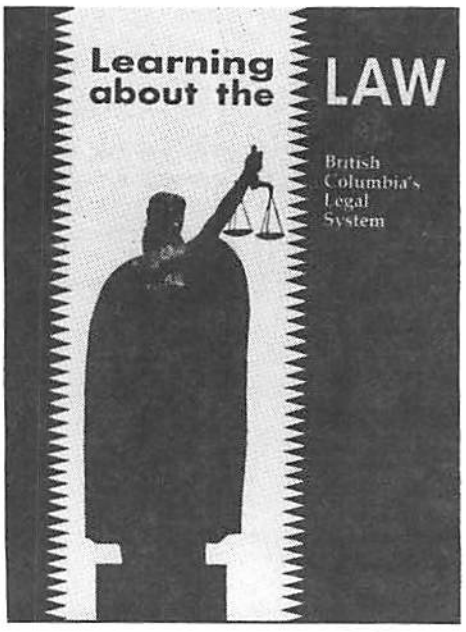
Learning About the Law is an informative and valuable guide for students learning about B.C.'s laws and legal system. Although the book was written for ESL students, it is very appropriate for use in literacy classes.

The book contains valuable, relevant material, and the writers have done a good job of simplifying very complicated legal language. Much of the material first appeared in legal supplements in *The Westcoast Reader.*

The book contains a good mixture of graphics and text, with lots of large, bold print. There are seven chapters, each forming a nice "unit" of information, factual examples, and human interest stories. Students especially like the "help line" at the end.

Learning About the Law was field tested in both literacy and ESL classes. In most cases, a fair amount of time was spent developing the vocabulary before reading the text. The reading level of the classes ranged from Grade 3-6 and while some students had difficulty, the pre-teaching enabled them to follow the text. The articles and stories lead naturally to discussions of personal experiences and ways to avoid problems in the future. Instructors were very favourable in their comments, but there were several suggestions for the addition of study questions, discussion notes, and glossaries.

Single copies of the book are available free of charge to literacy teachers and tutors. ESL teachers may order class sets.



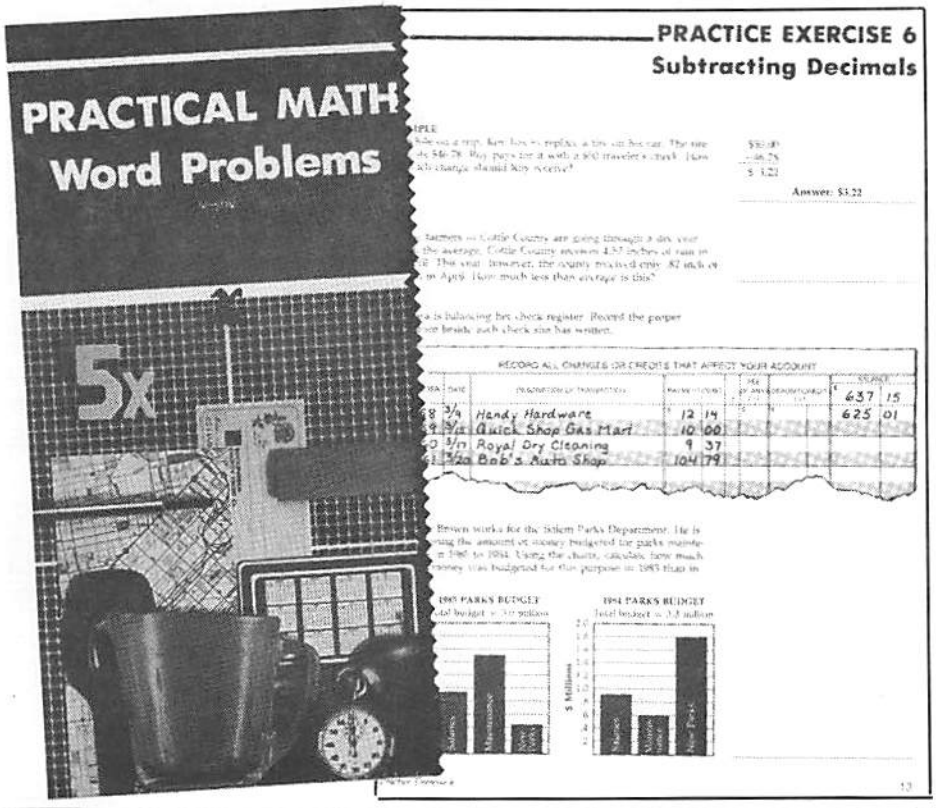
Title: Practical Math Word Problems
Author: H. Lewis Watkins
Publisher: Steck-Vaughn Company, 1985
Available: Educational Resources, #109 - 8475 Ontario Street, Vancouver, B.C. V5X 3E8
Tel: (604) 324-9717
Price: $7.95
Reviewed by: Loraine Wong
Level: Independent (7-9)

Practical Math Word Problems is a well-organized, thorough resource book for math students at the Fundamental/Intermediate (Grade 8-10) level. The pages are nicely laid out with good graphics and illustrations, especially in the geometry section. Pre-tests and mastery review exercises help identify and test problem areas. An answer key and appendix of helpful math facts are included at the back.

The word problems are adult-oriented and deal with real-life situations. The material is modern and the prices and interest rates used are realistic, so students can easily relate to the situations. There is a good range of math topics, with special sections on how to solve word problems as well as two-step and multiple-step problems.

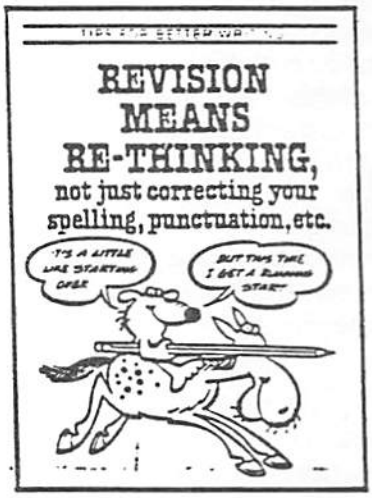
Each exercise includes an example problem and explanation to guide the student through the work. As these explanations are somewhat brief, the book would be useful as a supplemental resource, not as a core text for the program. Also, the book is American and, therefore, does not deal with metric measurements.

Literacy students found the reading level difficult, but there are sections that could be adapted. Students at a higher reading level gave the book good reviews and appreciated working with more up-to-date material.



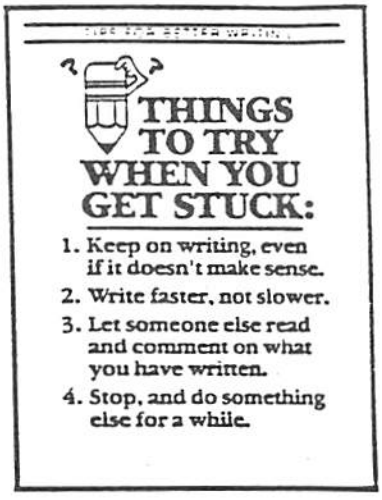
Title: Creative Writing Posters (#176-187)
Available: Good Stuff, P.O. Box 369, Milton, Ontario L9T 4Y9
Price: Set of 12 poster $53.45
Individual poster $4.75
Recommended by: Cindy Onstad, Vancouver Community College
Reviewed by: Laurie Gould

Here is a set of posters to brighten up your classroom or learning centre. *Creative Writing Posters* offer amusing encouragement and specific suggestions about the writing process. Most posters have tips for better writing and a colorful animal cartoon. For example, under a caption that reads "Never fall in love with your first draft", an amorous lion clutches some papers that tell him "No please...I'm not good enough for you." Another poster suggests, "Things to try when you get stuck." One particularly useful poster lists six steps in the writing process with short,



simple explanations for prewriting, writing, responding, revising, editing, and evaluating.

Students like the posters and say they are useful reminders of how to deal with the ups and downs of the writing process. The 19 by 25 inch posters are funny without being childish. They can be purchased individually or as a set of 12. There is a brochure available that shows each poster clearly.



Title: The Winds of Change: Indian Government
Author: Vivianne Plouffe, Kim Kissel, Sheila Thompson
Publisher: Riedmore Books, 1988
Available: Reidmore Books, 012 Lemarchand Mansion, 11523 -100 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 0J8. Tel: 1-800-661-2859 Fax: (403) 482-7213
Price: $17.25
Reviewed by: Lorraine Fox
Level: Functional (4-6)

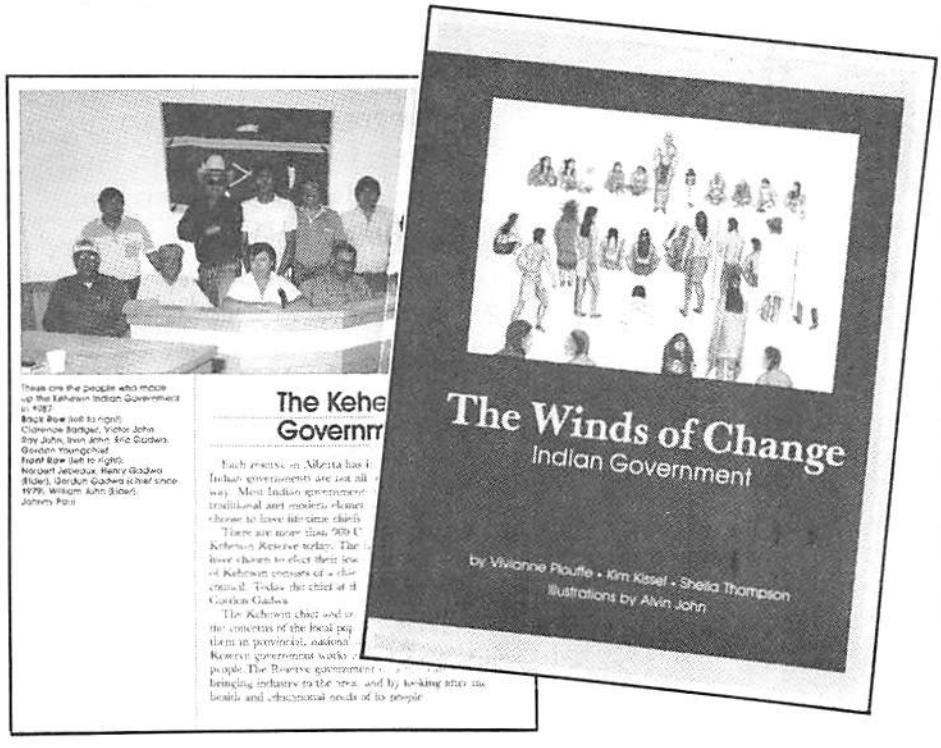
Winds of Change is attractively packaged in a glossy hard binding and contains hand colored illustrations as well as color and black and white photographs. It has a workbook format with six chapters, an alphabetized glossary of native and non-native terms, and a "What we have learned" section. At the conclusion of each chapter there are suggested activities and questions relating to that chapter.

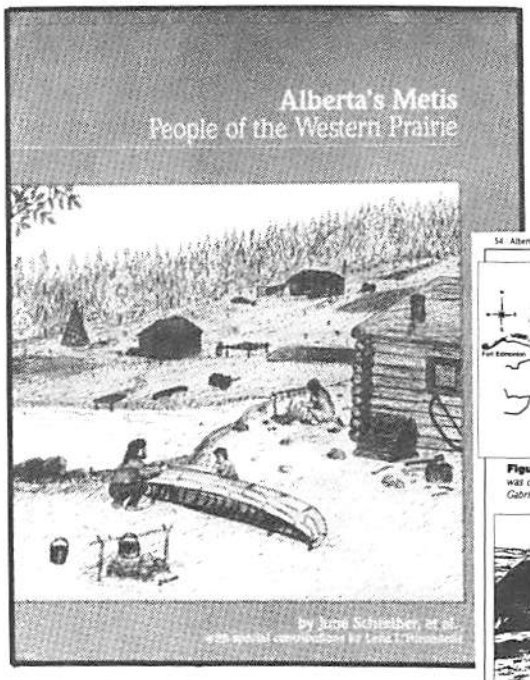
The book focuses on the political changes that have taken place on the Kehewin Reserve in Alberta. It describes the arrival and influence of the "Mooniyaw" or Europeans and the conflicts that led up to the signing of Treaty #6.

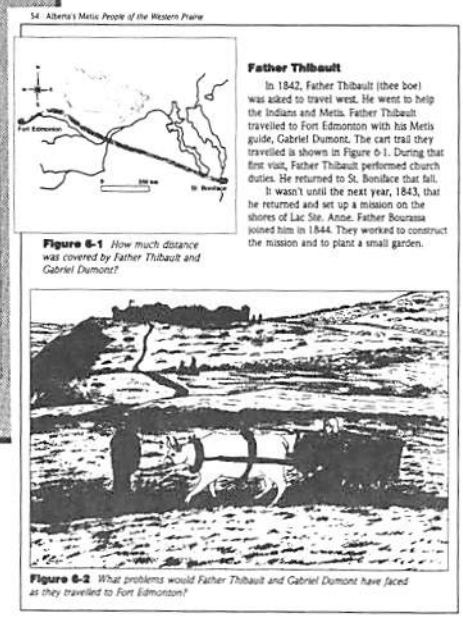
The book can be used as resource material and would be valuable in formulating theme units.

Winds of Change works positively with learners because of its attractiveness, clear statements without preaching, and interesting, innovative activities that can be used with native and non-native learners alike.

The only weakness expressed by my students was that the book was too short and some people wanted to know more.






54 Alberta's Metis: People of the Western Prairie

Father Thibault

In 1842, Father Thibault (thee boe) was asked to travel west. He went to help the Indians and Metis. Father Thibault travelled to Fort Edmonton with his Metis guide, Gabriel Dumont. The cart trail they travelled is shown in Figure 6-1. During that first visit, Father Thibault performed church duties. He returned to St. Boniface that fall.

It wasn't until the next year, 1843, that he returned and set up a mission on the shores of Lac Ste. Anne. Father Bourassa joined him in 1844. They worked to construct the mission and to plant a small garden.

Figure 6-1 How much distance was covered by Father Thibault and Gabriel Dumont?

Figure 6-2 What problems would Father Thibault and Gabriel Dumont have faced as they travelled to Fort Edmonton?

Title: Alberta's Metis: People of the Western Prairie
Author: June Schreiber with special contributions by Lena L'Hirondelle
Publisher: Riedmore Books, 1988
Available: Same as above
Price: $17.95
Reviewed by: Lorraine Fox
Level: Functional (4-6) Independent (7-9)

Alberta's Metis is part of the same series as *The Winds of Change*. It is also a hardback with a workbook format and a glossary of words at the back.

The book concentrates on the experiences of the Red River Metis from historical times to the present day. One of the devices used to learn about the Metis is through the personal story of an elder, Lena L'Hirondelle. The book also explores the history of the Metis and the fur trade through an exercise called "The Metis Guide Game." This game makes learning the historical facts much more interesting and provides some fun too.

Alberta's Metis can be used as resource material as well as to develop social studies theme units. Included are information gathering exercises, looking at documents, map reading, and describing information contained in photos.

Title: Fearon's World History
Author: Joanne Suter
Publisher: Fearon Education, 1990
Available: Fearon-Janus, 500 Harbor Blvd., Belmont, California 94002. Tel: (415) 592-7810
Price: Set of 10 books and Resource Binder $228 (US)
Single copy $18.00 (US)
Reviewed by: Linda Hackett
Level: Functional (4-6)

Fearon's new *World History* is a traditional, comprehensive history of the Ice Age through world events of 1989, in a 519 page hardcover format. It is intended for use by a wide range of readers, including adult new readers and covers material required for GED testing.

Although some readers may find the overall size of this text daunting at first, the layout of the pages is approachable with generous margins, quietly effective illustrations and documentary photographs, and exceptionally clear time lines and maps.

The treatment of the historical information is sympathetic to a variety of learning styles. On the one hand, the text is a narrative of economic and political movements. "Learning objectives" at the start of each chapter and summaries, exercises, and review questions following the chapters focus on the reader's recall of events and dates. But as well as this systematic workbook

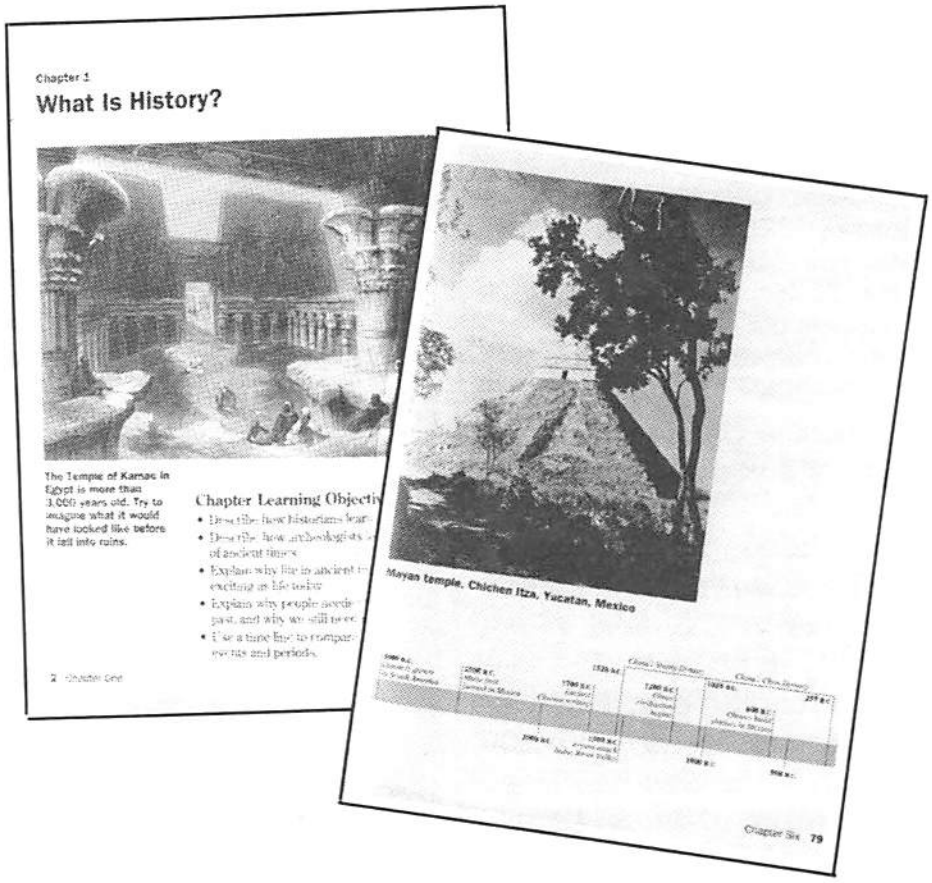
approach, the text is enriched by biographies, asides on aspects of culture, fictional accounts ("You are there"), thought-provoking margin notes, and open-ended questions — all of which encourage a holistic view and critical thinking.

The prose is informal in tone and is rated by Fearon at below Grade 4 in readability because of the use of controlled sentence length (Spache formula) and glossaries preceding each chapter so that advanced vocabulary can be "pre-taught." However, when field tested, it was found that the text was most comfortably read by functional level readers (above Grade 4).

As an American publication, *Fearon's World History* is quite balanced in its portrayal of the U.S. in modern world history. There is virtually no mention of Canada, however, or of recent events in Eastern Europe and the MIddle East.

The book has been recommended by the committee because there is so little historical material written at a low reading level. However, as with many historical texts, it has a bias which is reflected in the selection of content and in the author's point of view.

Note: The classroom resource binder has not been field tested.


Chapter 1

What Is History?

The Temple of Karnac in Egypt is more than 3,000 years old. Try to imagine what it would have looked like before it fell into ruins.

Chapter Learning Objecti

Mayan temple, Chichen Itza, Yucatan, Mexico

Chapter Six 79

Each bulletin includes a guest review by someone with special expertise. Jean Bennett is a self-advocacy adviser with the British Columbia Association for Community Living.

Title: Let's Get Together
Publisher: East End Literacy, 1987
Available: Pippin Publishing Ltd. 150 Telson Road, Markham, Ontario. M1J 3J1 Tel: (416) 513-6966. Fax: (416) 513-6977
Price: $5.95
Reviewed by: Jean Bennett
Level: Basic (0-3)

Let's Get Together was written and produced by students at East End Literacy as a guide for people who want to get more involved in their communities. The book weaves together comments from learners with specific descriptions of meetings and activities.

There is an excellent balance of graphics, photographs and white space. The large print makes the book accessible to learners. Lots of quotes from students who became active at East End Literacy give the book a very personal quality.

Two of the best chapters in the book describe how to run a meeting and how to plan a

community event. The chapter on running meetings helps students understand the value of meetings in addition to explaining the specific purposes of an agenda, minutes, and a chairperson.

The chapter on planning an event contains step-by-step directions for planning a party. Readers can adapt the list quite easily to organize their own special events. This section is especially good because it provides an opportunity for students to try organizing independently.

Overall, *Let's Get Together* is an excellent resource for encouraging literacy students to get involved in their communities and to help organize Learner Events.

Let's get together

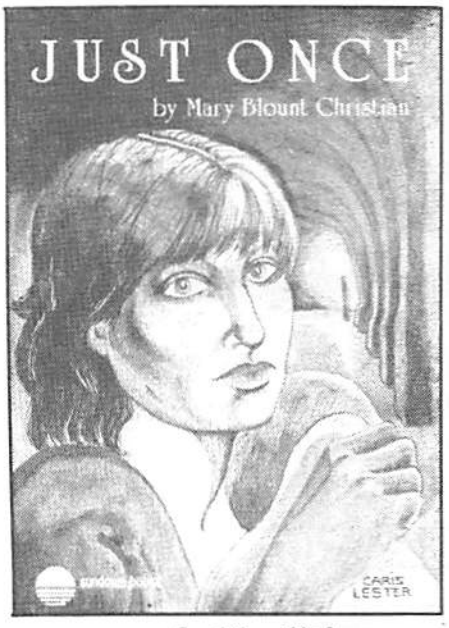
★★GOLDEN OLDIES★★

Title: Lonely Child
Author: Linda Beaupre
Publisher: East End Literacy, 1983
Available: Pippin Publishing Ltd., 150 Telson Road, Markham, Ontario. L3R 1E5. Tel: (416) 513-6966 Fax: (416) 513-6977
Price: $3.95
Reviewed by: Barbara Bate
Level: Basic (0-3)

Lonely Child is the story of a young mother struggling with single parenthood. The author, Linda Beaupre, enrolled as a learner in East End Literacy, a community based reading centre in downtown Toronto. It was here that she was encouraged to write about her life experience. As a woman of 20 with a four-year-old son, she describes the fear, anguish, and loneliness of her responsibility.

This short story is presented in large handwritten print with plenty of white space. The text is well illustrated by Karen Suitor, who at the time of publishing was a freelance illustrator as well as a tutor with East End Literacy.

Lonely Child could span all reading levels. As a true story with strong human interest, it will help any reader to better understand the situation of young, single parenthood.



cover of old edition

cover of new edition

Title: Just Once

Author: Mary Blount Christian
Publisher: New Readers Press, 1982
Available: Educational Resources, #109 - 8475 Ontario Street, Vancouver, B.C. V5X 3E8Tel: (604) 324-9717
Price:$6.50
Recommended by: Rene Merkel, Vancouver Community College
Reviewed by: Barbara Bate
Level: Functional (4-6)

Just Once is the story of a young wife and mother who is physically abused by her husband. As in most fiction, the plot is based on fact. The woman loves her husband and wants to make a home for him and their child, but at what cost? A quote from the jacket cover describes her conflict:

" Cora can no longer live with her husband's violent temper. She must take her baby and find a way to make it on her own."

In addition to wife abuse, issues of alcoholism, working wives, self-esteem, support systems, and child care are addressed. The book has 48 pages of large print with dramatic illustrations. Unfortunately, the reference to social services is American.

The following are comments from student reviewers:

" This book is an asset to those who don't know the seriousness of the problem, and it is good reading for those of us who know it exists but don't now how to help it."

" I liked it from the beginning right to the end. It's based on reality and makes a lot of sense."

Plans for another issue of *our own WORDS*

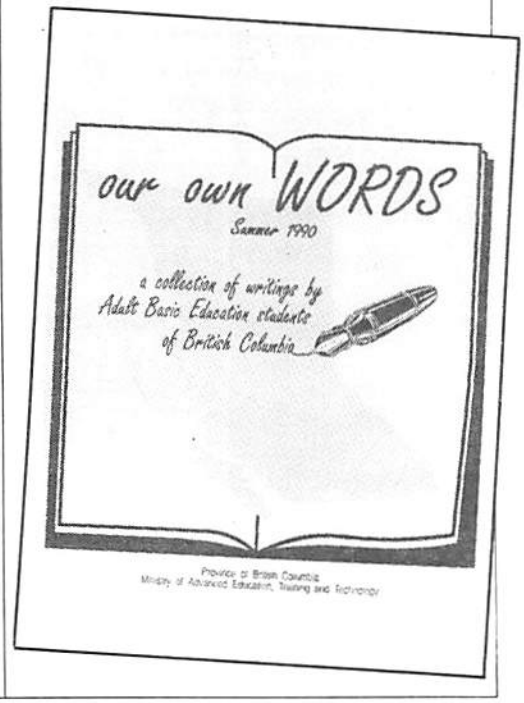
our own WORDS is a collection of writing by ABE students enrolled at B.C. colleges. The writing is divided into three levels: provinicial, advanced and intermediate, and includes poetry, personal experience stories, fiction and expository writing.

There have been two issues published so far and another issue is planned for this summer.

The first two issues have been very popular with both students and teachers.

Guidelines for submissions for the Summer 1991 issue have been mailed to ABE college instructors.

The deadline for submission to the editorial committee is March 8, 1991.



RECOMMENDED LITERACY MATERIALS REVIEW

Title _____
Author _____
Publisher _____ Copyright Date _____

Where is it available? _____ Level (please circle)
***Basic(Gr.0-3)** ****Functional(Gr.4-6)** *****Independent(Gr.7-9)**

Please be as specific as possible in describing the material. If reviewing print material, please attach a photocopy of the table of contents and a sample page of the text to assist us in evaluating the material.

1. Describe the material _____

2. How do you use it? _____

3. Why does it work with learners? _____

4. What are the weaknesses, if any? _____

Please feel free to elaborate on any aspect of this material. Use the other side of this form for additional comments. Submissions should be sent to:

Joan Acosta
Capilano College
2055 Purcell Way
North Vancouver, B.C. V7J 3H5

Recommended by: _____ _____

(name) (institution)